

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 L-03 H-01 INT-05
GSA-02 IO-13 PA-01 PRS-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 STR-06 CEA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4299

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 0562

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, PORG, ITC, JA

SUBJECT:EIGHTH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL

REF: A) STATE 5666 B) BONN 465

1. SUMMARY: JAPAN'S POSITION WILL PROBABLY BE THE SAME AT JANUARY ITC MEETING AS AT DECEMBER EPRP MEETING, ALTHOUGH FINAL GOJ POSITION NOT YET FIRM. JAPAN HOPES THAT UK, AND POSSIBLY OTHER CONSUMERS, CAN JOIN U.S. AND FRG IN OPPOSING PRICE RANGE INCREASE. MINISTER SANO IN LONDON, WHO IS CENTRAL TO GOJ RUBBER POLICY, WILL REPRESENT JAPAN. END SUMMARY.

2. U.S. POSITION OUTLINED REFTEL A DISCUSSED WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON WITH HYODO, DIRECTOR, KOIKE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, RESOURCES DIVISION, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BUREAU, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HYODO SAID THAT GOJ WAS CURRENTLY IN PROCESS OF DISCUSSING JAPANESE POSITION WITH OTHER APPROPRIATE AGENCIES, HENCE CANNOT OFFICIALLY STATE THAT GOJ POSITION IS YET FIRM. HYODO BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE FROM JAPAN'S DECEMBER POSITION TO OPPOSE ANY INCREASE IN A PRICE RANGE, AND WOULD VOTE AGAINST A
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RESOLUTION CALLING FOR SUCH AN INCREASE. KOIKE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT IF THERE WERE TO BE ANY CHANGES IN THE JAPANESE POSITION, THE FIRST INDICATION OF IT WOULD COME IN LONDON, FOR MINISTER SANO IS THE ONE TOKYO LOOKS TO FOR GUIDANCE ON RUBBER POLICY.

3. KOIKE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE FRG AGREES WITH THE U.S. POSITION BUT HE HAD HEARD NOTHING REGARDING THE UK POSITION.

HYODO AND KOIKE NOTED THAT BECAUSE OF JAPAN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ASIAN RUBBER PRODUCERS, IT WOULD FEEL MUCH MORE COMFORTABLE IN OPPOSING A PRICE INCREASE IF THE UK COULD BE PERSUADED TO JOIN THE U.S., FRG, AND JAPAN, AND HOPES AS WELL THAT OTHER CONSUMER COUNTRIES COULD ALSO SUPPORT THIS POSITION. (THIS REFLECTS, OF COURSE, MOFA ASIA DIV THINKING, AS MENTION BY MIN SANO IN LONDON 535.)

4. NO ONE FROM TOKYO WILL ATTEND THE ITC MEETING. JAPAN WILL BE REPRESENTED BY MINISTER SANO.

5. KOIKE SAID HE WAS STILL AWAITING CLARIFICATION FROM WASHINGTON ON A REPORT FROM MINISTER SANO THAT THE U.S. WOULD PROPOSE TWO SCENARIOS AT LONDON, ONE INVOLVING ARTICLE 29 ON SUSPENSION OF BUFFER STOCK OPERATIONS, AND THE OTHER ON ARTICLE 40 REGARDING MEASURES TO BE TAKEN IN THE EVENT OF A TIN SHORTAGE. HE SAID HE WAS NOT SURE WHETHER THESE WERE RELATED TO A PRICE RANGE INCREASE OR NOT, AND HAD ASKED THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO SEEK CLARIFICATION.

6. STATE 8271, GIVING RATIONALE FOR US POSITION ON TIN SITUATION AND PRICE RANGE ISSUE, WILL BE USEFUL IN DISCUSSIONS WITH JAPANESE ON TIN. KOIKE MENTIONED IN THE COURSE OF OUR DISCUSSION WEDNESDAY THAT HE THOUGHT THE ARGUMENT THAT THE PRICE RANGE SHOULD BE INCREASED BECAUSE THE MARKET PRICE WAS HIGH WAS INVALID, SINCE IT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE THAT THE MARKET PRICE

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COULD DROP. IT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO KURODA'S (MITI) INQUIRY RE US CONDITIONS ON THE USE OF PROCEEDS FROM BUFFER STOCK SALES. (CF. TOKYO 12662, 14227, LONDON 14198 AND STATE 224055.)
MANSFIELD

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